MW

ONE-SHOT PARODY ISSUE®

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X-MEN™

PRONOUNCED "ZHMEN" 1 syllable

$1.50
Can.
$2.30

1

Caution: This is not a Marvel Comic

XMEN

Story
BRADD MIELKE

Art
CHAS TRUOG

Cover Coloring
JIM BAUER

Parody. Satire. **Mad** magazine has been doing both for years. But before **that Mad,** there was — **Mad,** a comic book that featured parodies of several popular comic books of the time. Milky Way Graphic Publications wants to bring back that tradition with **One-Shot Parody Issue**™. Each and every issue of this magazine will feature parodies of today's most popular comics. How often these parodies appear really depends on your response. If you like what you see, tell me, but even more importantly, tell your friends and have them give us a try as well. Sales are always the most important factor when determining frequency.

In addition to the parodies, Milky Way Graphics will also be releasing other comics in the coming months. First and foremost will be **Mutant Forces**, scheduled for release in late January. This B & W limited series was originally planned to start next month, but inker/colorist Jim Bauer convinced me that this book should **only** see print in full laser-scanned, airbrushed color. (For a preview of the samples that convinced me, take a look at the back cover of this issue. If you've ever seen better comic art **from anybody,** let me know. Oh, the story won't disappoint you either.) Reserve a copy from your retailer **now**.

See you next time,

Bradd Mielke

Bradd Mielke
Editor

One-Shot Parody Issue. Vol. 1 No. 1 is copyright© 1986 by Milky Way Graphic Publications, P.O. Box 381, Sleepy Eye, MN 56085. Art is copyright© 1986 Chas Truog. Any similarities to persons living or dead, except for purposes of satire, is purely coincidental. Single issues of this comic are available from the publisher for $2.25 (until it's sold out or becomes a super collector's item, which ever comes first.)

I AM THE LOOKER!
WINK!
Bald is Beautifu
IT IS MY DUTY, AS IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL MEMBERS OF MY RACE, TO RECORD EVENTS AS I LOOK AT THEM, THUS RECORDING THEM FOR PROSPERITY (NOT POSTERITY--PROSPERITY; YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN A GOOD STORY WILL COME ALONG AND YOU CAN SELL THE RIGHTS AS A LUCRATIVE BOOK, MOVIE, OR MINI-SERIES DEAL.)
OF COURSE, THERE ARE MANY PLANES OF EXISTENCE JUST AS THERE ARE MANY MARVELOUS UNIVERSES (TWO AT LAST COUNT.) THERE ARE LOOKERS POSITIONED TO COVER THEM ALL. MY HOME IS THIS SATELLITE WHICH ORBITS THE WORLD I WATCH.
THE EVENTS ABOUT TO UNFOLD DO NOT TAKE PLACE IN ANY OF THE MARVELOUS UNIVERSES OF WHICH I PREVIOUSLY SPOKE...
...REALLY! MY LAWYERS HAVE ASSURED ME THAT THIS STORY DOES NOT TAKE PLACE IN A MARVELOUS UNIVERSE. INSTEAD, IT TAKES PLACE IN A MILKY WAY GALAXY ON AN EARTH NOT ALL THAT DIFFERENT FROM YOUR OWN.
IF YOU DISCOUNT FREQUENT INTERGALACTIC AND INTER-DIMENSIONAL TRAVEL AND SUPERHEROS, OF COURSE.

Bitten by hordes of radioactive spiders during a kindergarten science demonstration gone awry, these children grew up under the leadership of their kindergarten teacher Prof. Xavier Angst, who was also bitten. She taught each of them how to use their resultant new-found abilities. (Radioactive spiders have a way of producing such abilities.) Over the years Ms. Xavier has taken in others who have been bitten by radioactive spiders as well. For some odd reason she's always called these children her **XMEN**

(pronounced Zhmen—1 syllable)

EVERYDAY, FOR SEVERAL YEARS, EACH OF THE YOUNGSTERS HAS HAD THEIR POWERS TESTED IN THE ROMPER ROOM. (WHEN THEY WERE YOUNGER THE NAME SEEMED APPROPRIATE; NO ONE'S EVER GOTTEN AROUND TO RENAMING IT...)
ROMPER ROOM DANGER SEQUENCE 3, PROFESSOR.

EXCELLENT, SIGNOURNEY, YOUR HANDLING OF THESE SOPHISTICATED COMPUTERS HAS IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY. NOW CHECK OUT DANGER SEQUENCE 4.
OOPS!
4 5 6
SORRY, PROFESSOR.
THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT, SIGNOURNEY. YOU'RE ONLY 15; YOU'RE LEARNING.
SHE SURE IS A NICE LADY, SHE JUST LOOKS A LITTLE WEIRD.
!
POP!
BIMPH!

EARTHWORM! WHY ≥COUGH≤ ≥COUGH≤ CAN'T YOU ≥COUGH≤ LEARN TO CONTROL THAT SMOKE MAKING ABILITY OF YOURS? ≥COUGH≤
NOW SIGNOURNEY, BERT'S ≥COUGH≤ NOT MUCH OLDER THAN YOU. HE TOO MUST HAVE TIME TO DEVELOP HIS ABILITIES TO THE UTMOST. ≥COUGH≤ ≥COUGH≤
YAH, PROFESSOR. GIVEN 2 OR 3 MORE YEARS, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FILL THIS WHOLE HOUSE WITH SMOKE WITH JUST ONE TELEPORT!
BOY, IS HE STUPID.
THAT'S NOT WHAT THE PROFESSOR MEANT, BERT. NOW PLEASE LEAVE ≥COUGH≤ AND DON'T TELEPORT AGAIN.
OK!
ERROL FLYNN, EAT YOUR HEART OUT!
HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING STRANGE ABOUT BERT LATELY?
NO, PROFESSOR, HE ALWAYS ACTS THAT WAY.
HE REALLY IS STUPID ISN'T HE?
YES, PROFESSOR, HE IS.
4

IN ACTUALITY, SEVERAL OF THE XMEN (PRONOUNCED ZHMEN--1 SYLLABLE) HAVE BEEN ACTING MORE THAN JUST A LITTLE STRANGE LATELY. CASE IN POINT: STORM CLOUD.
LIFE IS SO BEAUTIFUL!
THE FRAGRANCE OF THESE BLOSSOMS AROUND ME... SO SWEET... SO WONDERFUL. AND THE SUN! THOSE RICH, WARMING RAYS GIVING NEW LIFE AND NEW STRENGTH TO ME.
WHEN I WAS A YOUNG THIEF GROWING UP IN BAGDAD, (WITH MY BEST FRIEND, MODESTY) I NEVER THOUGHT I'D EXPERIENCE SUCH INNER PEACE AND SERENITY. BECOMING A XMEN HAS REALLY MEANT SO MUCH TO ME. IT MADE ME REALIZE THAT I HAVE LEADERSHIP ABILITIES SO NECESSARY TO TAKE CHARGE OF MY OWN LIFE.
LIFE FOR ME AND AMONG MY FRIENDS... IS PERFECT.
OREO
SEED

OREO
WHAT THE HEY! I NEED A HAIRCUT!
BEROK!
ENGLAS!

STORM CLOUD CAN CONTROL THE ELEMENTS.
AS A SURGEON USES A SCAPEL, SO DOES STORM CLOUD USE HER POWERS OVER LIGHTNING TO TRIM HER LONG FLOWING LOCKS.
WHAT SHE THEN PROCEEDS TO DO TO HER LIVING QUARTERS IS BOTH SWIFT AND DEVASTATING.
K-RACKOO!
I
HATE
PLANTS!
FROM NOW ON, I PITY THE FOOL WHO MESSES WITH...
...TYPHOON!
Better Garge Homes

THE CHANGE IN STORMCLOUD'S PERSONALITY, THOUGH SUDDEN, IS HARDLY UNIQUE. OTHER XMEN HAVE BEEN SUFFERING FROM MOOD SWINGS AS WELL, SWINGS WHICH DEFY ALL SENSE OF LOGIC, SWINGS WHICH DEFY ALL SENSE OF PREVIOUS CONTINUITY. WHAT TYPE OF FORCE COULD HAVE THE POWER TO BRING ABOUT SUCH INCREDIBLE PERSONALITY METAMORPHOSIS? (NO, HIS INITIALS AREN'T C.C.) ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO THAT QUESTION LIES ON THE BLUE AREA OF THE MOON.
WINK!
SINCE THIS IS MY HOME, I'LL RESUME THE NARRATION CHORES.
BEHIND ME IS THE BURIAL GROUND OF JEAN BLACK, FORMER XMEN, WHO, FOR A TIME WAS CONSUMED BY AN ALL ENVELOPING AURA OF EVIL.
RUMBLE RUMBLE
"KNOWN THEN AS BLACK JEAN, SHE ONCE WIPED OUT AN ENTIRE PLANET OF INTELLIGENT ASPARAGUS-HEADS JUST TO SHOW SHE COULD.
"THIS AND MANY OTHER CRIMES AGAINST THE GALAXY DID NOT GO UNNOTICED. ALL ADVANCED SPACE-FARING RACES OF THE GALAXY GOT TOGETHER TO HOLD A TRIAL TO CONVICT HER.
"THEIR SPOKESMAN, PRINCE JIMIANDRA, LEADER OF THE SHOOT'HER (AND ASK QUESTIONS LATER) RACE, FELT THAT SUCH CRIMES MUST BE PAID FOR WITH THE ULTIMATE PRICE.
SPLAT! SPLAT! SPLAT!
"THE OTHER XMEN, INCLUDING MS. XAVIER (VERY CLOSE FRIEND OF PRINCE JIMIANDRA) WERE ALLOWED TO PLEAD JEAN'S CASE AND EVENTUALLY FIGHT FOR HER."
RIGHT IN MY OWN BACKYARD AS A MATTER OF FACT.
RUMBLE! RUMBLE!
FOR WHATEVER REASON BLACK JEAN DIED THAT DAY. BUT HER MEMORY, AND PERHAPS MORE, LIVES ON. YOU SEE, SHE HAD THIS POWER OF REBIRTH...
DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
7

NEVERMIND. ANYHOW...
WHY DO I GET THE FUNNY FEELING THAT HER DARK POWERS ARE MANIFESTING THEMSELVES ONCE MORE, EVEN AS I SPEAK?
RUMBLE! RUMBLE! RUMBLE!
BOOM-
BOOM
DOOM
black JEAN lives ...again!
AND THAT DEAR READER SPELLS T-R-O-U-B-L-E.

WHILE BACK ON EARTH...
STORM, CLOUD! YOU'VE CHANGED!
♪ IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD ... ♫
WOW!
YES, LITTLE ONE, AND FOR MOST OF THE AFTERNOON I'VE BEEN GIVING CAREFUL THOUGHT AS TO WHY AND HOW IT HAPPENED. I'VE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT WE ALL HAVE CHANGED. MY TRANSFORMATION WAS JUST MORE ABRUPT AND, SO, MORE NOTICEABLE.
YOU'LL RECALL HOW MAD MAXINE (THE HUMAN WOLVERINE) WAS RECENTLY JILTED BY THE JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN, LOGAN RUN. INSTEAD OF WIPING OUT HALF OF JAPAN IN A MANIC RAMPAGE, SHE MERELY CAME HOME...
GET OUTTA' MY WAY, BUB.
(UNNFF.)*
YOU DON'T WANT ME? I DON'T WANT YOU NEITHER!
*TRANSLATED FROM THE JAPANESE -- B.M.
YOU'RE JUST LUCKY I DIDN'T HAVE MY CLAWS EXTENDED.
PTUI
OOOHH...
"...AND HUMUNGOUS, WHEN WE WERE FIGHTING THE HOCUM WARS IN SOME SECRET GALAXY, FELL IN LOVE WITH ANOTHER AND AS A RESULT HURT SIGNOURNEY VERY BADLY.
"HAS ANY OF YOU EVER SAW PIOTER HARM SO MUCH AS A FLY, LET ALONE THE GIRL HE LOVES? OF COURSE NOT! SOMETHING CHANGED HIM, AND MAD MAXINE AS WELL.
"LET'S NOT FORGET SIGNOURNEY.
"AFTER THE DEMON DOMAIN, SHE'S BUT A SHADOW OF HER FORMER SELF."
AND THE PROFESSOR! YES, THE PROFESSOR HAS MADE THE BIGGEST CHANGE OF ALL!
NOW THINK HARD EVERYBODY, DIDN'T XAVIER USED TO BE... A MAN?

YAH, THAT'S RIGHT!
BONK!
BUT WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED ALL OF THESE TERRIBLE CHANGES, AND WHO COULD HAVE THE POWER TO STOP US FROM NOTICING?
YOU'RE RIGHT, OREO!
PROFESSOR, DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
I'M AFRAID I DO, BERT.
COULD YOU TELL ME, SO I CAN UNDER-STAND?
I'VE JUST HAD A MENTAL FLASH. BLACK JEAN IS BACK!
EVEN BERT WASN'T IMMUNE TO THE CHANGES, HE'S MORE STUPID THAN EVER.

WE'RE LEAVING FOR HAG-NEET-O'S ISLAND FOR EXTRA HELP.
KOFF! COFF!
IS THAT WISE, PROFESSOR? HAG-NEET-O IS OUR GREATEST ENEMY!
BIMPH!
BIMPH!
BIMPH!
SHE COULD ALSO BECOME A MOST POWERFUL ALLY. WE'LL NEED THE HELP OF ALL WHO WERE EVER BITTEN BY RADIOACTIVE SPIDERS TO COMBAT THE AWESOME POWER OF BLACK JEAN.

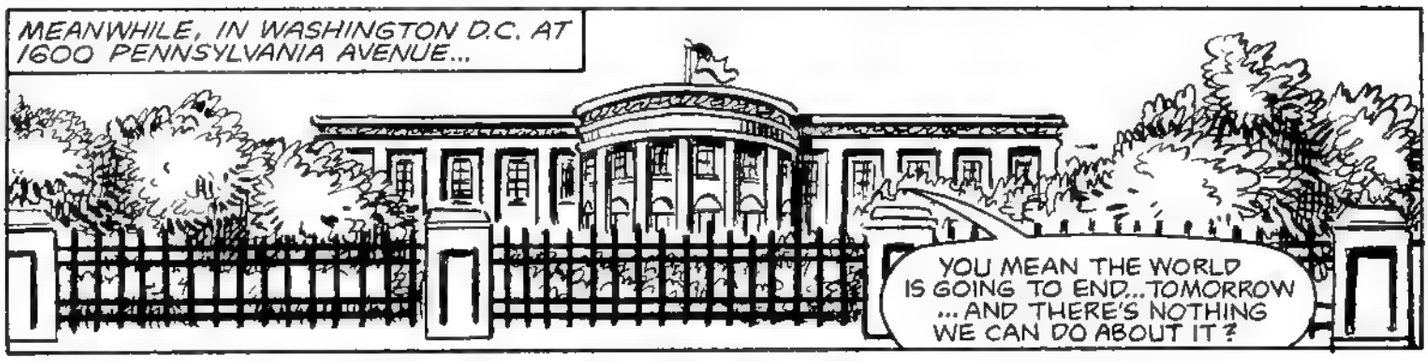
TO HELP FIND THOSE INDIVIDUALS, I'VE ENLISTED THE AID OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST "INFECTED DETECTIVE!!.
...CEREBOS.
CEREBOS WILL DO ANYTHING FOR WOMEN AND ALE.

ELSEWHERE, AT THE HOME OF SCOTTY BUMMERS...
SCOTTY, FORMER XMEN, HIGHBEAM (NICKNAME HEADLIGHT), ONCE LOVED JEAN BLACK. WHEN THE TRANSFORMATION CAME OVER HER AND TURNED HER INTO BLACK JEAN, HE STILL LOVED HER. AFTER BLACK JEAN'S DEATH, HE FOUND SOMEONE THAT LOOKED JUST LIKE HER, AND MARRIED HER.
US MAIL
BUMMERS
AS IF THAT WASN'T CONFUSING ENOUGH, HE DISCOVERED THAT THE REAL JEAN BLACK NEVER REALLY DIED AND THAT BLACK JEAN WAS A SEPARATE ENTITY ALTOGETHER. SCOTT'S PROBLEM WAS THAT HE LOVED (S?) ALL THREE!! (KIND OF SOUNDS LIKE DALLAS OR DYNASTY, DOESN'T IT? IT GETS BETTER!)
NOT KNOWING THAT BLACK JEAN IS BACK, HE'S TRYING TO MAKE A CHOICE BETWEEN HIS OTHER TWO LOVES.
JEAN BLACK IS BACK; MANDOLYNE, MY WIFE, HAS OUR CHILD. WHAT SHOULD I DO? I WAS ALWAYS A ROTTEN TEAM LEADER; I COULD NEVER MAKE THE EASIEST OF DECISIONS. NOW I'M FORCED TO MAKE A REAL TOUGH ONE, ONE THAT WILL AFFECT ME FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE, AND I'M COMPLETELY STUMPED!
THE FOREIGN LEGION? NAW. THE ALIEN LEGION? NOW SAY!
OH, MAYBE A NAP WILL HELP. DELAYING THE MAKING OF DECISIONS ALWAYS HELPED ME IN THE PAST.
12

TO COMPLICATE MATTERS EVEN MORE, JEAN BLACK HAS FINALLY DECIDED TO FIND OUT WHY HIGHBEAM HAS TREATED HER SO COLDLY SINCE HER RETURN.
JB
IT JUST SO HAPPENS TO BE THE SAME TIME THAT MANDOLYNE DECIDES TO GIVE SCOTTY HER FINAL ULTIMATUM.
OH, ONE MORE THING, BLACK JEAN HAS CHOSEN THIS VERY MOMENT TO MAKE HERSELF KNOWN TO HIGHBEAM ONCE MORE, AS WELL. (HEH, HEH, HEH.)
BJ
THEY ALL ARRIVE AT EXACTLY THE SAME TIME.
WHO ARE YOU TWO?
HUH? WHA...? WHERE'S MY GOGGLES?
WHERE'S MY GOGGLES ...?
WHA ...?
I MUST BE DREAMING.
OOPSIE.
13

SCOTTY!
DO NOT UNDER
WHATDAYA KNOW, TAKING A NAP WORKED! I NO LONGER HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION!
JEAN!
NOPE.
MANDY!
NOPE.
BLACK JEAN?
YEP.
I GUESS THAT NAP WASN'T SUCH A HOT IDEA.
14

MEANWHILE, ON HAG-NEET-O'S ISLAND...
...BOTH HAG-NEET-O AND THE PROFESSOR HAVE BEEN WORKING FEVERISHLY FORMULATING A PLAN TO STOP BLACK JEAN.
NO MORE TIME TO PLAN. BLACK JEAN IS WITH HEADLIGHT.
WHA? ARE YOU SURE?
SNIFF SNIFF
CEREBOS IS SURE.
SIGNOURNEY!
YES, PROFESSOR.
GET THE PLANE READY, WE'RE LEAVING, NOW! BERT!
YES, PROFESSOR.
GET ERNIE, YOU MIGHT BE NEEDING HIM. HUMUNGUS!
YES PROFESSOR.
ESCORT HAG-NEET-O AND CEREBOS TO THE PLANE. OREO!
YES, PROFESSOR.
GET ME SOME COOKIES AND CREAM. SKIPPER!
YES, PROFESSOR.
GET GILLIGAN AND THE OTHERS, WE'RE FINALLY GETTING OFF THIS ISLAND!
15

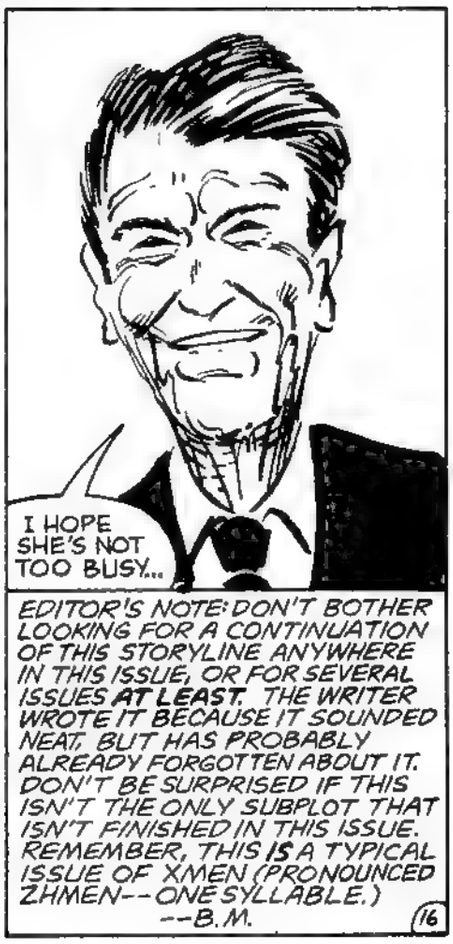

MEANWHILE, IN WASHINGTON D.C. AT 1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE...
YOU MEAN THE WORLD IS GOING TO END...TOMORROW ...AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT?

THAT SUMS IT UP RATHER NICELY, MR. PRESIDENT. WE'VE GOT SEVERAL OF OUR TOP AGENCIES WORKING ON THE PROBLEM, BUT I'M AFRAID THERE'S NO HOPE. THE RIFT THAT'S DEVELOPED BETWEEN OUR UNIVERSE AND THE NEGATIVE UNIVERSE IS EXPANDING AT AN EVER INCREASING RATE. BY TOMORROW, THAT RIFT WILL BE LARGE ENOUGH TO ENGULF OUR ENTIRE PLANET. IF ANYTHING ON OUR EARTH HITS ANYTHING IN THAT UNIVERSE...

...BLOOIE!!

WE DARE NOT TELL THE GENERAL POPULACE. THE PANIC WOULD BE WORLDWIDE. HMMM, PERHAPS I SHOULD TELL NANCY. SHE MIGHT BE ABLE TO THINK OF SOMETHING.
DO THAT SIR. SHE MAY BE OUR LAST HOPE, ESPECIALLY SINCE SUPERSTUPENDOUSMAN WORKS FOR THE OTHER COMIC BOOK COMPANY.

BEEP!
RECEPTIONIST
"THE" BUTTON
YES, SIR.
GET MY BOSS ON THE LINE.
RIGHT AWAY, SIR.

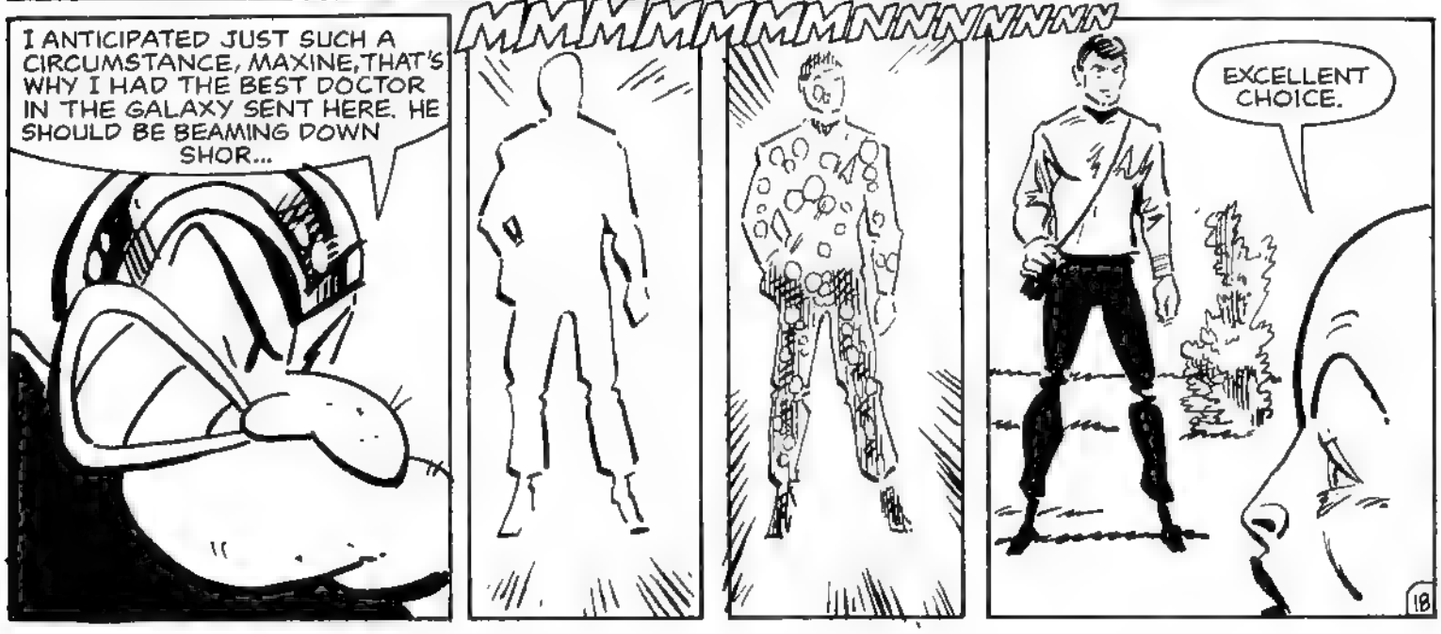

I HOPE SHE'S NOT TOO BUSY...
EDITOR'S NOTE: DON'T BOTHER LOOKING FOR A CONTINUATION OF THIS STORYLINE ANYWHERE IN THIS ISSUE, OR FOR SEVERAL ISSUES AT LEAST. THE WRITER WROTE IT BECAUSE IT SOUNDED NEAT, BUT HAS PROBABLY ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT. DON'T BE SURPRISED IF THIS ISN'T THE ONLY SUBPLOT THAT ISN'T FINISHED IN THIS ISSUE. REMEMBER, THIS IS A TYPICAL ISSUE OF XMEN (PRONOUNCED ZHMEN--ONE SYLLABLE.) --B.M.

BACK AT HIGHBEAM'S HOUSE.
MISS ME, SCOTTY?
AH... AH... SURE. SURE! TELL ME, HOW HAVE YOU BEEN? WHY WHEN LAST I SAW YOU... AH, YOUR, AH, ATOMS WERE SPREAD ALL OVER THE UNIVERSE...
I GOT BETTER...
...NOW, KISS ME!
KISS ME...
SIZZLE POP
KRACKLE POP
SSSSSS
I'M IMPRESSED.
HUBBA... HUBBA...
WELL, AT LEAST HE DIED HAPPY.
BUT THAT TOOK THE LAST OF MY NEWBORN STRENGTH. WHAT I NEED IS A SNACK.
YUM!
17

WHILE MOMENTS EARLIER, IN FRONT OF SCOTTY'S HOUSE.
DO YOU SUPPOSE THIS PLAN WILL WORK?
WE'VE CONTACTED EVERYONE EVER BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, A FEW OTHERS AS WELL...
INDEED, STORM CLOUD, MOST SHOULD START ARRIVING SHORTLY. WHEN THEY ARRIVE...

UH OH...
WHAT IS IT, BERT?
IT'S JESSICA FLETCHER, FROM MURDER, SHE WROTE. WHEN SHE SHOWS UP, SOMEBODY ALWAYS DIES.

BERT'S RIGHT, PROF. SCOTTY'S PROBABLY ALREADY DEAD.
...IT WAS MURDER...!


I ANTICIPATED JUST SUCH A CIRCUMSTANCE, MAXINE, THAT'S WHY I HAD THE BEST DOCTOR IN THE GALAXY SENT HERE. HE SHOULD BE BEAMING DOWN SHOR...
MMMMMMMMMNNNNNNNN
EXCELLENT CHOICE.

KERASH
BACK TO WHERE WE LEFT OFF.
YUM!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, MONSTER. DOC, CHECK SCOTTY.
AS DOCTOR McCOY CHECKS ON THE CONDITION OF HEADLIGHT, THE FIRST OF XAVIER'S CONTACTS ARRIVES, PRINCE JIMIANDRA OF THE SHOOT'HER (AND ASK QUESTIONS LATER) EMPIRE. NOT ONLY DOES PRINCE JIM LOATHE BLACK JEAN, HE ALSO LEADS A GROUP OF SPACEFARERS, THE STARRAMMERS, WHO SHOW UP EVERY TIME A XMEN IS ABOUT TO (OR HAS) DIE(D) SO THAT THEY CAN GIVE A MIRACULOUS CURE (OR BRING THEM BACK TO LIFE.) THEY REALLY ARE A FINE GROUP OF PEOPLE TO HAVE AROUND IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.
HE'S DEAD, JIM!
BONES, HOW'S SCOTTY?
POUF!
WE'LL SOON FIX THAT!

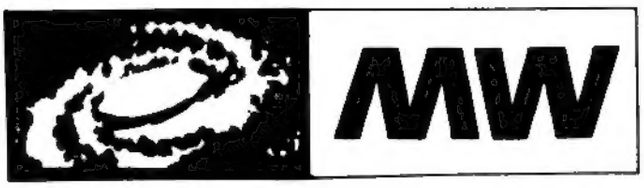
KOFF! KOFF! =GAK= COFF!
WHAT'S UP?
YOU ARE!
HE'S ALIVE AGAIN!
BIG DEAL.
ZAP!
HE'S DEAD AGAIN.
OH YEAH?
POUF!
ZAP!
ZAP! ZAP! ZAP!
POUF! POUF!
POUF! POUF!
WHAP! WHAP! ETC.

WHEW! I'M ALL POUFED OUT.
HA! HA! HA! AND DEAD...
ZAP!
...AND YOU AND YOU AND YOU, TOO.
ZAP!
ZAP!
ZAP!
REALLY PROFESSOR, THESE FRIENDS OF YOURS COULDN'T PUT ME AWAY THE LAST TIME, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU'LL HAVE ANY MORE SUCCESS THIS TIME?
WE'VE HAD MORE TIME TO PREPARE, BJ, MORE FRIENDS TO CALL ON.
GO AHEAD, BRING 'EM ALL ON. I'LL WAIT.
AS IF ON CUE, THEY BEGIN TO ARRIVE. HUNDREDS, PERHAPS THOUSANDS OF "THE BITTEN" ARE NOW ANSWERING XAVIER'S CALL. FIRST TO ARRIVE ARE THE NEW PUPILS, XAVIER'S YOUNGEST TRAINEES...
ACK!
ARF ARF
NEXT TO ARRIVE ARE THE ELITIST INFECTED, UNTIL NOW, ALWAYS BITTER ENEMIES OF XAVIER. TODAY, REALIZING THEY BATTLE A COMMON FOE, THEY HAVE COME TO HIS AID.
PSSST... SIGNOURNEY.
YEAH, BERT.
WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO JUST CAME IN?
THEY'RE MEMBERS OF THE BRIMSTONE CLUB, DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
BRIMSTONE CLUB?
I SHOULD JOIN THEM! I SMELL LIKE BRIMSTONE WHEN I "BIMPH!"
21

THE "BITTEN" CONTINUE TO COME, FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, SINGLY, AND IN GROUPS.
HEY, IS THIS A GARAGE SALE OR WHAT?
YAWN< CAN'T THEY HURRY IT UP A BIT; I AIN'T GOT ALL DAY. I'M HUNGRY.
NOW ENTERING THE ROOMS IS PERHAPS THE LARGEST GROUP OF INFECTED IN THE WORLD TODAY, THE DEFECTIVE INFECTED. LIVING IN THE SEWER SYSTEMS BENEATH NEW YORK'S BUSY STREETS, (I'D CALL THAT DEFECTIVE, WOULDN'T YOU?) THEY ARE OUTCASTS FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD. STORM CLOUD, FOR REASONS TOO LONG TO GET INTO HERE, IS THEIR LEADER. THEY HAVE ANSWERED HER SUMMONS.
I ♡ NEW YORK
WELL, BJ?
GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU PROF, I'M IMPRESSED. NO, NOT REALLY. I'VE KILLED SEVERAL BILLION CELERY HEADS, WHAT'S A FEW HUNDRED MORE GNATS?
SAY, HANDSOME! COME HERE OFTEN?
ZAP!
WOO!
22

YOU DON'T SEEM TO REALIZE WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.
NO, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T REALIZE. I'M THE MOST POWERFUL ENTITY IN THE UNIVERSE. I COMMAND, NO, I DEMAND YOUR RESPECT; I DEMAND YOUR LOYALTIES.
IF I DECIDE TO LET THIS WORLD LIVE, IT WILL LIVE, BUT IF I DECIDE IT WILL DIE, IT WILL DIE. MY DEMANDS, TO PUT IT SIMPLY ARE NOT OPEN TO DEBATE.
OH, BUT THEY ARE BJ; THEY ARE. JUST LIKE AN ACTRESS WHO MADE TOO MANY DEMANDS FROM HER PRODUCERS, CAST, AND CREW, SO HAVE YOU MADE TOO MANY DEMANDS TO BE A CONTINUING PART OF OUR STORY.
YOU CAN KEEP ON KILLING US, BUT WE WILL KEEP ON COMING, MORE CHARACTERS, CHARACTERS WHO DO NOT NEED THE TIME AND ATTENTION THAT YOU NEED, OR MAKE THE DEMANDS THAT YOU MAKE.
SHE SOUNDS JUST LIKE CAPTAIN KIRK!
NO! NO! STOP! STOP!
ZAP!
POP!

AND THESE NEW CHARACTERS WILL CONTINUE TO GROW, TAKING MORE AND MORE TIME AWAY FROM YOU AND YOUR LIFE, UNTIL YOU ARE ONLY BRIEFLY MENTIONED.
DARN IT. MY MASCARA'S RUNNING.
NOO!
NO GOOD, BJ. THERE'S LOTS OF GOOD CHARACTERS TO REPLACE THE ONES YOU KILL. WE'RE BLESSED WITH A WRITER WHO'S CREATED MORE CHARACTERS THAN EVEN YOU CAN EVER DESTROY. EVEN AS WE SPEAK...
...MORE AND MORE SPACE IS BEING DEVOTED TO THESE CHARACTERS, AS YOUR OWN SPACE...
...GROWS LESS AND LESS. IN A SHORT WHILE, NO ONE WILL EVER MENTION YOU AGAIN. WHY RIGHT NOW...
...TOTALLY DIFFERENT HEAD TRIP, Y'KNOW?
YOU'RE BEING PUSHED OUT OF THIS STORY, GIVING OTHER CHARACTERS MORE ROOM TO GROW.
WHO WAS THAT?
HEY!
BLACK JEAN HAS JUST BEEN EFFECTIVELY... CANCELLED... A VOID FROM WHICH VERY FEW EVER RETURN.
STOP IT!
STOP IT!
I MUST LIVE!
NO! NO! NO!
I MUST LIVE!
THE END.



Milky Way Graphics

P.O. BOX 381

SLEEPY EYE, MN 56085

MUTANT FORCES™

"STUNNING!"

Exploding your way in January in beautiful AIRBRUSHED, LASER-SCANNED COLOR!

DON'T MISS IT!

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SPLAMM
THERE IT IS!! YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS--
--KILL IT!!
TSS TSS TSS
FZZZTT!! SNKK! TWOOSH!
MNNGHH!!
FZZZAT!!
CHNK CHNKK CHNKKK!
SEE IF YOU CAN GET TO MY WEAPONS IN THE NEXT ROOM, FRANK! I'LL COVER FOR YOU OUT HERE!!
FRANK?!
FRANK!!
FRANK?
THE CONVENTIONALS AREN'T DOING IT!!
BRING IN THE NEUTRONICS.
19